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justice of which the rest of the world may utterly condemn, and which requires other nations to assume the attitude of indifferent spectators even when the war constitutes an unjustifiable aggression in violation of international law, Mr. Hill very justly characterizes as unsocial and anarchistic. We must, he says, have a "real society of states", a "commonwealth of nations", instead of a multitude of absolutely independent sovereignties, each of which is subject to no law or rule of morality except such as it may choose to recognize as binding. He does not, however, go to the length of advocating the abolition of existing states and their absorption into a universal empire, as Dante proposed, nor does he suggest the erection over them of a superstate; he is content with a scheme of international co-operation, along the line of the proposed league to enforce peace. "The only way", he says, "in which there is ever to be a real society of states is for those great powers which can find a sufficient community of interest to unite in the determination that they will themselves observe principles of justice and equity and that *they will unite their forces in defense of them*" (p. 107).

It is impossible within the space of this review to examine into the merits of Mr. Hill's diagnosis and the remedy which he proposes. It is difficult for the reviewer to avoid the feeling that at times he exaggerates what he calls the "evil heritage" of absolute sovereignty, by attributing to states a freedom of action which international law no longer concedes as belonging to them. But whatever may be one's opinion as to his interpretation of the theory of state omnipotence, there ought to be no dissent from his proposition that the right of conquest should be abolished, that the attitude of silence, if not of indifference, heretofore adopted by states in regard to violations of international law should be abandoned, and that some form of international co-operation must be organized for compelling states to observe their international obligations and duties and to respect the law which has received the common assent of mankind. His treatment of the subject is characterized by originality, sound thinking, and breadth of view, and his book is a very meritorious contribution to the growing output of literature dealing with the reconstruction of international law.

JAMES WILFORD GARNER.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The Voyages of the Norsemen to America. By WILLIAM HOVGAAARD, Professor of Naval Design and Construction, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [Scandinavian Monographs, vol. I.] (New York: The American-Scandinavian Foundation. 1914. Pp. xxi, 304. \$4.00.)

IN this work Professor Hovgaard has undertaken to elucidate and fortify the view that the Vinland sagas are, on the whole, reliable records of actual geographic exploration. But, as against the opinion of

Dr. Gustav Storm and Dr. Finnur Jonsson that the Saga of Erik the Red is a more reliable record than the so-called Greenland narrative, and against Dr. Nansen's dictum that both sagas are devoid of historical value, Professor Hovgaard takes the position that "both accounts . . . may probably be considered as essentially historic and essentially of equal value". He makes no unqualified concession to any of Nansen's clever contentions, and shows scant regard for the most emphatic declarations of Storm and Jonsson with regard to texts.

If Professor Hovgaard had limited himself to supporting his statement that "In general, the simple and straightforward narrative in the sagas . . . will by itself be sufficient to convince people of its essential truthfulness", he would have assigned himself a task for which he has special qualifications, particularly the matter of presenting "the peculiar conditions under which the navigation of the Norsemen took place". The author's experience as an officer in the Royal Danish navy, and as professor of naval design and construction in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, makes him eminently fitted to treat the nautical and maritime phases of the Vinland problem, and he has performed the task well. In a series of chapters he discusses the art of ship-building among the Norsemen of the period, gives an excellent résumé of the early history of the Norsemen in Iceland, followed by an interesting account of the Norse settlements in Greenland, whence the Vinland voyagers issued forth, and gives also an adequate summary of the geography as well as of the hydrographic and climatic conditions of the North-Atlantic coast of America, accompanied by a description of the Eskimos and Indians of this region, in which he argues that the Norse explorers doubtless came in contact with both of these races—all illuminated with such a wealth of well-selected photographic illustrations as have never before been bestowed on this subject. The various phases of life in the Norse colonies of Iceland and Greenland, especially the economic conditions, are set forth in such a way as to prepare the reader for a ready acceptance of the main facts of the saga narratives, and make it plain that it would have been very strange if the Norsemen during their centuries of abode on the inhospitable shores of southwestern Greenland had not found land to the southwest and made serious efforts at colonization.

But the author does not apply the mass of information that he has gathered in direct refutation of Nansen's astute and vigorous onslaught on the Vinland sagas, which, at present, is the vital issue in the discussion. He is merely preparing the ground for a detailed examination of the contents of both sagas for the purpose of a "reconstruction of the voyages" (the title of the last chapter) and the identification of the regions visited. Upon this last point the author's efforts are centred. But there need be no hesitancy in declaring that, like so many previous investigators of this knotty problem, he will surely fail to convince critical students of any definite results. For it is glaringly evident that to

trace, along an irregular coast of great extent, the course of ancient mariners who had no nautical instruments, is a hopeless task. So far as the historical importance of these isolated and fruitless attempts at exploration and colonization is concerned, it is sufficient to demonstrate that Leif Erikson and Thorfinn Karlsefni were real men who belonged to the well-known Norse colony of Greenland; that in the early part of the eleventh century they visited various parts of the North American continent—got far enough south to make the observation that day and night were of more equal length than in Greenland; and, finally, found savages whose hostility prevented permanent settlement in the new regions. Just where the Norse explorers landed may have some sentimental interest, but it is not important, nor is it essential for the purpose of establishing the general truthfulness of the Vinland sagas.

In spite of the superfluity of detailed discourse relating to the identification of localities, Professor Hovgaard's book contains much valuable information. Letter-press, maps, and illustrations are in all respects excellent, and are a credit to the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

JULIUS E. OLSON.

Americ Vespuce, 1451-1512: sa Bibliographie, sa Vie, ses Voyages, ses Découvertes, l'Attribution de son Nom à l'Amérique, ses Relations Authentiques et Contestées. Par HENRY VIGNAUD. [Recueil de Voyages et de Documents pour servir à l'Histoire de la Géographie, XXIII.] (Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1917. Pp. ix, 421. 40 fr.)

THE foregoing title shows sufficiently the wide scope of the present volume. The book is the fruit of years of labor on the part of one who has devoted the greater part of a long lifetime to the history of American discovery. Its author has undertaken the huge work successively abandoned by Harrisse and Uzielli. If he brings to his task less of a critical spirit than either of these scholars would have done, that fault is almost pardonable in view of his enthusiasm for his subject and the noble desire to do justice to a man much maligned. For Vignaud frankly ranges himself as a Vespucci apologist. He reacts strongly against all recent doubting Thomases and reverts to the position taken by Varnhagen and John Fiske. Typographically the book is both beautiful and accurate; it is printed in quarto format with wide margins suggestive of anything but war-time penury.

The bibliographical portion contains little not to be found in Justin Winsor and Fumagalli, with the exception of recent publications, and not all of these are included. No mention is made of Rambaldi's biography, certain works of Antonio de Martino, the brief but important survey of Vespucci by the late Professor Bourne in his *Spain in America*, nor of the older writings of Gino Capponi. Doubtless a systematic